

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 and to also recite that the first group of channels and the second group of channels extend inward toward the central region of the dispensing plate as shown in Figures 11A and 11B of the application. Claim 2 has been canceled in view of the amendment to claim 1.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the first group of channels and the second group of channels extend inward toward the central region of the dispensing plate as shown in Figures 11A and 11B of the application.

Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13 and to also recite that the first group of channels and the second group of channels extend inward toward the central region of the dispensing plate as shown in Figures 11A and 11B of the application. Claim 13 has been canceled in view of the amendment to claim 11.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15 and to also recite that the first group of channels and the second group of channels extend inward toward the central region of the dispensing plate as shown in Figures 11A and 11B of the application. Claim 15 has been canceled in view of the amendment to claim 14.

35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,675,396 to Varanasi *et al.* ("Varanasi") in view of WO 02/064868 to Wilson *et al.* ("Wilson"). In view of the amendments above and remarks below, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Regarding amended independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 14, these independent claims now require that the first group of channels and the second group of channels extend inward toward the central region of the dispensing plate. This is advantageous in that the channels move liquids to a central region of the dispensing plate where flush water from the flush water flow path 85 (see paragraph [0057] of the specification) can mix with the liquids before entering the toilet bowl.

Looking at Varanasi, the dispensing plate channels extend toward an outer perimeter region of the dispensing plate (see Figures 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10a-10c, 11A-11E, 17, 18, 23 and 27-28 of Varanasi). Likewise, in Wilson, the dispensing plate channels extend toward an outer perimeter region of the dispensing plate (see Figures 9, 10 and 11 of Wilson). Therefore, it is submitted that all of the elements and limitations of independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 14 (and claims 9, 10 and 12 that depend thereon) are not shown or suggested in Varanasi and Wilson. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1, 8-12 and 14 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding independent claim 3, this claim requires that the wicking device not extend outward beyond an outermost edge of the base of the dispensing device. This is advantageous in that it provides a discreet fit for the device under the toilet rim bowl (see paragraph [0056] of the specification).

In Varanasi, the dispensing plate extends beyond the base 24 or 24A or 124 (see Figures 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 22, 24, 25, and 30-31 of Varanasi). Likewise, in Wilson, the dispensing plate extends beyond the base (see Figures 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 16 of Wilson). Therefore, it is submitted that all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 3 (and claim 4 that depends thereon) are not shown or suggested in

Varanasi and Wilson. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 3-4 are in condition for allowance.

With respect to independent claim 5, this claim requires that the first bottle and the second bottle are at least partially spaced apart to define a flush water flow path between the first bottle and the second bottle. This is advantageous in that it provides a discreet fit for the device under the toilet rim bowl (see paragraph [0057] of the specification).

Looking at Varanasi, there is a single bottle and therefore, nothing is suggested regarding the spacing of two bottles. In Wilson, at page 16, fourth full paragraph, it is stated that "A liquid container 90, which is generally transparent or translucent, has two separate compartments 92,94, divided by a wall 96. It will be appreciated that container 90 may be formed as two separate members which are bonded together, or otherwise shaped to facilitate manufacture." Therefore, in Wilson the bottles are attached by a wall or other bonding device. As a result, the bottles cannot be spaced apart to provide a flush water path as recited in claim 5. Thus, it is submitted that all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 5 (and claims 6-7 that depend thereon) are not shown or suggested in Varanasi and Wilson. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 5-7 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding independent claim 16, this claim requires that the base of the dispensing device include a plurality of upstanding tabs for securing the first bottle and the second bottle in the base. This is advantageous in that it provides a secure fit for the bottle in the base.

In Varanasi, the tabs 178 that are referred to in the Office Action hold the insert 193 that holds the hook 112 (see column 13, lines 50-64 of Varanasi). The tabs 178 of Varanasi do not secure the bottle as recited in claim 16. In Wilson, at page 16, fifth full paragraph, it is stated that "An outlet opening or neck 98,100 on each compartment 92,94 fits snugly in a respective cylinder 78". Thus, in Wilson the bottles are attached by a cylinder, not by tabs. Therefore, it is submitted that all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 16 (and claim 17 that depends thereon) are not shown or suggested in Varanasi and Wilson. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 16-17 are in condition for allowance.

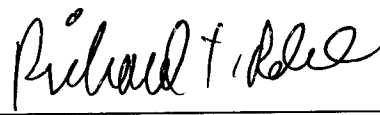
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. No additional fees are believed to be necessary for the entry of this amendment. However, if fees are needed, please charge Deposit Account 17-0055 for the fees needed.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____



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